

Yolla Bolly Contiguous

CA-030-501

YOLLA BOLLY WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (WSA)

(CA-030-501)

1. THE STUDY AREA —

646 Acres

The Yolla Bolly WSA is located in Tehama County, California, approximately 40 miles west of Red Bluff. The WSA includes 646 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land. There are no private or State inholdings (see Map 1 and Table 1).

The WSA is bounded on the north and west by the Mendocino National Forest (USFS) (the west boundary of the WSA joins the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness) and on the east and south by private property.

The WSA comprises one section of land, sloping sharply to the east into the Cottonwood Creek drainage. The WSA is generally brush-covered with scattered oak and digger pine. Due to its steep slopes, southern aspect, and lack of water, there is little wildlife.

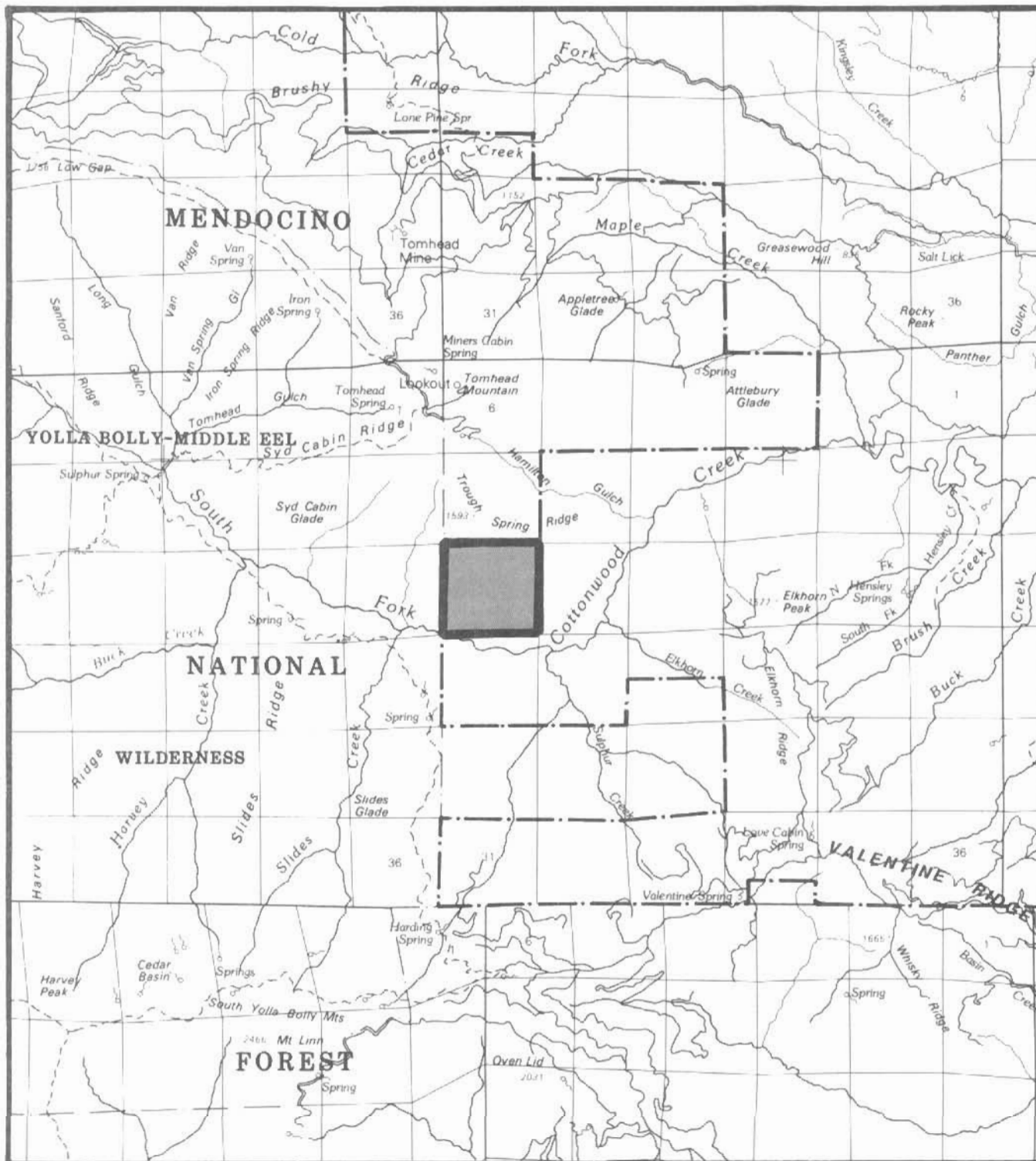
The WSA was studied under Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). Suitability recommendations were analyzed in the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for the California Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas. A summary of the area's wilderness values was included in the final EIS. Two different suitability recommendations were analyzed in the EIS: all wilderness and no wilderness.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS/RATIONALE

0	acres recommended for wilderness
646	BLM acres recommended for non-wilderness

No wilderness is the recommendation for this WSA. The entire acreage in the WSA is released for uses other than wilderness. The all-wilderness alternative is considered to be the environmentally-preferred alternative as it would result in the least change from the natural environment over the long term. The no-wilderness alternative will be implemented in a manner which will use all practical means to avoid or minimize environmental impacts.

The unsuitable recommendation is based on the area's low wilderness quality characteristics and lack of special features. Although contiguous with the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness, this WSA would not compliment the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). In addition, the present wilderness boundary generally follows topographic features. The WSA boundary follows property lines, making manageability more difficult.




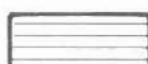

T27N
T26N

T26N
T25N

R9W R8W

R8W

-  NONE
-  RECOMMENDED FOR NONWILDERNESS
-  LAND OUTSIDE WSA RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS

-  SPLIT ESTATE
-  STATE
-  PRIVATE



**Yolla Bolly
Proposal
MAP-1**

0 1 2 3
MILES

030-501
JUNE, 1988

TABLE 1 - Land Status and Acreage Summary of the Study Area

<u>Within Wilderness Study Area</u>		<u>Acres</u>
BLM	(surface and subsurface)	646
Split Estate	(BLM surface only)	
<u>Inholdings</u>		
State		0
Private		0
Total		646
<u>Within the Recommended Wilderness Area</u>		<u>Acres</u>
BLM	(within WSA)	0
BLM	(outside WSA)	0
Split Estate	(within WSA)	0
Split Estate	(outside WSA)	0
Total BLM Land Recommended for Wilderness		0
<u>Inholdings</u>		
State		0
Private		0
<u>Within the Area Not Recommended for Wilderness</u>		<u>Acres</u>
BLM	(surface and subsurface)	646
Split Estate	(BLM surface only)	0
Total BLM Land Not Recommended for Wilderness		646

3. CRITERIA CONSIDERED IN DEVELOPING THE WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Wilderness Characteristics

1. Naturalness: The area shows little of man's presence. The only exception is a fuelbreak constructed in 1976 during a wildfire which has largely grown back. There has been no mining in the area.
2. Solitude: The WSA's small size provides limited opportunity for solitude unless considered in conjunction with the USFS Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness west of the area. The lack of roads and motorized vehicle activity allows for undisturbed use. The

area is generally brush-covered making foot access difficult. There are no surrounding developments or activities that would detract from the feeling of solitude. While solitude is available, it is not considered to be outstanding.

This WSA is periodically overflowed by military aircraft as part of the national defense mission taking place in approved military operating areas and flight corridors. The visual intrusions and associated noise create periodic temporary effects on solitude which are deemed necessary and acceptable as a part of the defense preparedness of the nation.

3. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: The area offers traditional kinds of primitive recreational experience, but these are not outstanding when compared to like areas. There is little in the area to induce the average user to spend much time. There is no permanent water source and the area's landscape offers no diversity.
4. Special Features: The area has no special features.

B. Diversity in the National Wilderness Reservation System (NWPS)

1. Assessing the diversity of natural systems and features as represented by ecosystems: This WSA contains 646 acres of the California Chaparral/Chaparral ecosystem. The Yolla Bolly WSA would not increase the diversity of the types of ecosystems in the NWPS.

Table 2 - Ecosystem Representation

Bailey-Kuchler Classification Domain/Province/PNV	<u>NWPS Areas</u>		<u>Other BLM Studies</u>	
	areas	acres	areas	acres
<u>NATIONWIDE</u>				
Calif. Chaparral/ Chaparral	17	462,256	10	86,564
<u>CALIFORNIA</u>				
Calif. Chaparral/ Chaparral	17	462,256	10	86,564

2. Expanding the opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation within a day's driving time (five hours) of major population centers: The WSA is within a five-hour drive of two major population centers. Table 3 summarizes the number and acreage of designated areas and other BLM study areas within a five-hour drive of the population centers.

TABLE 3 - Wilderness Opportunities for Residents
of Major Population Centers

Population Centers	<u>NWPS Areas</u>		<u>Other BLM Studies</u>	
	areas	acres	areas	acres
<u>California</u>				
Chico	16	1,286,873	13	430,822
Redding	14	1,236,503	11	344,633

3. Balancing the geographic distribution of wilderness areas: There are no other BLM WSAs within 50 air miles recommended for wilderness designation. The Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel Wilderness abuts the WSA on the west, and the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel North Fork Wilderness is approximately 30 miles to the west, both administered by the USFS.

C. Manageability

The Yolla Bolly WSA is manageable as wilderness. There is one fuel break constructed during a 1976 wildfire. While this fuel break is naturally revegetating, occasional trespass by motorcycles can be expected. There is no grazing within the WSA and none is expected in the future. The area is remote and little use is expected.

Military overflights in this WSA must be considered to maintain the integrity of the existing and future national defense mission as well as the wilderness resource.

D. Energy and Mineral Resource Values

1. Summary of information known at time of preliminary nonsuitability recommendations: The energy and mineral potential of the Yolla Bolly WSA is addressed in the California Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas EIS. Due to the fact that the WSA was deemed nonsuitable in the EIS, no BLM Geology-Energy-Minerals (G-E-M) report was prepared. In lieu of a G-E-M report, a literature search was made to verify the findings of the EIS.

The geology, mineralization and lack of mineral development in this area indicate a low potential for mineral resources. Geology of this section has been mapped as the Yolla Bolly and Pickett Peak Terranes of the Franciscan assemblage of the northern Coast Range geologic province. There is no evidence of any significant mineral deposits, geothermal, or oil and gas resources in the WSA. There has been no known exploration, development or production of mineral resources from within the WSA. The U.S. Geological Survey does not classify this land as being perspective valuable for any leasable mineral.

2. Summary of significant new mineral resource data collected since the nonsuitability recommendation which should be considered in the final recommendation: There were no mineral surveys conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Mines or the U.S. Geological Survey. As of January 13, 1988, BLM mining claim records indicated that there were no mining claims recorded in the WSA. As of February 12, 1988 there were no geothermal or oil and gas leases or applications within the WSA. There are no known saleable mineral deposits in the WSA. Due to the low potential for occurrence or development no mineral resource potential map was prepared for this WSA.

E. Impacts on Resources

The following table summarizes the affects on pertinent resources for all alternatives considered.

Table 4 - Comparative Summary of the Impacts by Alternative

ISSUE-RELATED RESOURCES	PROPOSED ACTION (NO-WILDERNESS/NO ACTION)	ALL-WILDERNESS ALTERNATIVE
Impacts on Wilderness Values	There are no planned management actions or projected surface-disturbing activities within the WSA. Therefore, no impacts on wilderness values are anticipated.	The WSA would receive long-term, legislative protection that would maintain the wilderness values. There are no planned management actions or projected surface-disturbing activities within the WSA. Therefore, no impacts to the WSA's wilderness values are anticipated.

F. Local Social and Economic Considerations

No local social or economic considerations were identified in the final EIS. Therefore, no further discussion of this topic will occur in this document.

G. Summary of WSA - Specific Public Comments

Several comments were received during the inventory phase, stressing the area's naturalness.

During the study phase, a public hearing was held in Ukiah, California on December 2, 1987. One issue was identified during the oral and written comments stage - the impact on wilderness values.

The U.S. Forest Service concurred with the Bureau's no-wilderness recommendation. No comments were received from local governments.